

Having thus described the invention, it is now claimed:

1. A dry break disconnect assembly for use in an associated fuel delivery system having a flexible fuel line extending from a fuel reservoir adapted for selective connection with an associated vehicle to be filled with fuel, the dry break disconnect assembly comprising:
 - a first member having a first shutoff member received therein;
 - a second member having a second shutoff member received therein;
 - means for establishing flow through the shutoff members when the first and second members are connected together; and
 - a frangible connection securing the first and second members together so that the frangible connection breaks under a predetermined load and the first and second shutoff members are actuated to shutoff positions in response to the predetermined load.
2. The invention of claim 1 wherein the frangible connection includes a series of spaced pins interconnecting the first and second members.
3. The invention of claim 2 wherein the pins are circumferentially spaced about the first and second members.
4. The invention of claim 1 wherein each of the first and second shutoff members is a valve urged by a biasing member toward a closed position when the first and second members are separated.
5. The invention of claim 4 wherein each shutoff valve includes a stem extending axially therefrom for selective operative engagement with the stem from the other shutoff valve and overcome the force of the biasing member when the first and second members are secured together.

6. The invention of claim 1 further comprising a hollow sleeve extending over the frangible connection.

7. A fuel delivery system comprising:
a fuel line extending from an associated fuel reservoir and adapted for selective connection with an associated vehicle to be filled with fuel;
a first member having a first shutoff valve received therein;
a second member having a second shutoff valve received therein, the shutoff valves selectively movable to a flow position when the first and second members are connected together and establishing flow therethrough; and
means for connecting the first and second members together so that the connecting means separates under a driveaway event, and the first and second shutoff valves move to shutoff positions in response thereto.

8. The invention of claim 7 wherein the connecting means includes plural frangible members interconnecting the first and second members, the frangible members designed to break in response to a predetermined load imposed during the driveaway event.

9. The invention of claim 7 wherein the connecting means includes plural, spaced frangible members interconnecting the first and second members.

10. The invention of claim 9 wherein the plural frangible members are disposed circumferentially about the first and second members.

11. The invention of claim 10 wherein the plural frangible members extend in a generally radial direction.

12. The invention of claim 9 wherein the plural frangible members extend in a generally radial direction.

13. The invention of claim 7 further comprising a securing member for attaching the first and second members in a slack condition.

14. A method of disconnecting a fuel line during a driveaway event comprising the steps of:

incorporating a drybreak disconnect into a fuel line;

mounting at least one frangible connector in the drybreak disconnect; and

providing first and second shutoff valves on opposite ends of the disconnect assembly to shut off flow therethrough in the event of a driveaway event.

15. The method of claim 14 comprising the further step of securing the fluid line at the drybreak disconnect in a slack position.

16. The method of claim 15 wherein the securing step includes securing the fluid line to a stationary structure.